



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH  
SECRETARY

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Contact: Jean Kelly  
Telephone: 225-219-3966

DEQ and the South Central Planning and Development Commission seeking input on ozone reduction strategies

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC), and the Houma Thibodaux Metropolitan Planning Organization are seeking input from the public on air quality strategies to reduce ozone formation and maintain attainment with the national standards.

DEQ has created a statewide survey that allows the public to make suggestions on how improve air quality in their own geographic are. The link to the survey is <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cleanairforlouisiana>.

Data collected from the survey will be shared with SCPDC and the Houma Thibodaux MPO.

The Houma-Thibodaux metropolitan area, comprised of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes, currently meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the pollutant ozone. However, the area is very close to becoming nonattainment and has joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Ozone Advance Program to take measures to reduce ozone.

The area is affected by a number of emissions sources that include marine equipment, as well as industrial sources, but there are also areas where residents and citizens can exert some control. Nonroad emissions, which comprise 26 percent of the nitrogen oxide emissions and 26 percent of the volatile organic compound emissions in the New Orleans area, are also emitted by lawn and garden equipment, four wheelers, boats and other off road vehicles. On road emissions sources that consist of vehicles driven on highways, can be more controlled when everyone combines errands, carpools and does not allow their vehicle to idle. Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in the presence of sunlight to form ozone, so by reducing the amounts of these emissions, we can impact how much ozone might be produced.

DEQ is asking residents and the public in the affected parishes to make their suggestions, via the survey, on how to help the area reduce ozone forming emissions.

For more information on the Ozone Advance Program and air quality, go to [www.deq.louisiana.gov/ozoneadvance](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/ozoneadvance) or at the EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/ozoneadvance>.